AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): A method of accumulating and retrieving information related to one or more information sources in a search space, said method comprising:

providing central program code at a central computer; said central program code being adapted for maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing the information related to said information sources stored in said central database, and for comparing said data records with said information related to said information sources;

recognizing communication between said central program code and remote program code at at least one remote terminal; said remote program code being adapted for monitoring user activity of at least one user accessing any information source in the search space irrespective of whether a uniform resource locator (URL) accessed in the search space is the same as the URL of said central program code, for collecting monitored data related to said user activity, and for transmitting said monitored data to said central program code, wherein said remote program code monitors said user activity without requiring said at least one user to access a search engine or any particular web site, and the monitoring is independent of the at least one user's access to any search engine;

supplementing, at said central computer, said data records in accordance with said monitored data to provide an augmented central database;

responsive to a request for information from said at least one user, identifying candidate response information related to said information sources at said central computer;

comparing contents of said augmented central database with said request and with said

candidate response information at said central computer; and

as a result of said identifying and said comparing, transmitting, to said remote program

code at said at least one remote terminal, data concerning one or more of said information

sources which contain information relevant to said request so as to progressively tailor

information retrieval results for said at least one user and provide said information retrieval

results to said at least one user.

2.   (currently amended): An information retrieval system for accumulation and

retrieval of data related to one or more information sources in a search space, said system

comprising:

remote program code at at least one remote terminal; said remote program code being

adapted for monitoring user activity of at least one user accessing any information source in the

search space irrespective of whether a uniform resource locator (URL) accessed in the search

space is the same as the URL of said central program code, for collecting monitored data related

to said user activity and to each of said information sources accessed by said at least one user,

and for transmitting said monitored data, wherein said remote program code monitors said user

activity without requiring said at least one user to access a search engine or any particular web

site, and the monitoring is independent of the at least one user's access to any search engine; and

a central computer having central program code receiving said monitored data

transmitted from said remote program code ; said central program code being adapted for

maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing information related to said

information sources, and for comparing said data records with said information related to said

information sources;

wherein said central program code supplements said data records in accordance with said monitored data to provide an augmented central database,

said central computer identifying candidate response information related to said information sources in response to a request for information from said at least one user, comparing contents of said augmented central database with said request and with said candidate response information, and transmitting, to said remote program code at said at least one remote terminal, data concerning one or more of said information sources which contain information relevant to said request so as to progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user and provide said information retrieval results to said at least one user.

3.   (*Cancelled*)

4.   (*Cancelled*)

5.   (*Cancelled*)

6.   (*Cancelled*)

7.   (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said monitored data comprises implicit data, including data selected from the group consisting of queries and actions taken after receiving responses to said queries, said implicit data being added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said implicit data.

8.   (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said monitored data comprises explicit data, including user input in response to one or more queries from said central computer, said user input including data selected from the group consisting of user profile

information and user feedback concerning information retrieval results, said explicit data being added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said explicit data.

9.   (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said monitored data further comprises explicit data, including user input in response to one or more queries from said central computer, said user input including data selected from the group consisting of user profile information and user feedback concerning information retrieval results, said explicit data being added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said implicit data and said explicit data.

10.   (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said remote program code is adapted for monitoring user activity of a plurality of users at a respective plurality of remote terminals, for collecting said monitored data related to said user activity and to one of said information sources accessed by each of said plurality of remote terminals, and for transmitting said monitored data to said central program code;

said supplementing comprises supplementing said data records based on said monitored user activity at said plurality of remote terminals to provide said augmented central database; and

said transmitting to said remote program code comprises progressively tailoring said information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said user activity at said plurality of remote terminals.

11.   (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said monitored

data includes a plurality of user profiles, and wherein said central computer groups contents of

said augmented central database based on said plurality of user profiles so as to tailor said

information retrieval results for said at least one user based on ones of said plurality of user

profiles most closely matching a user profile of said at least one user.

12.   (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said

information retrieval results include an identity of at least one other user with whom said at least

one user then can communicate to obtain further information.

13.   (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said monitored

data comprises implicit data, including data selected from the group consisting of queries and

actions taken after receiving responses to said queries, said implicit data being added iteratively

to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to progressively tailor

information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said implicit data.

14.   (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said monitored

data comprises explicit data, including user input in response to one or more queries from said

central computer, said user input including data selected from the group consisting of user profile

information and user feedback concerning information retrieval results, said explicit data being

added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to

progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said explicit

data.

15.   (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said monitored

data further comprises explicit data, including user input in response to one or more queries from

said central computer, said user input including data selected from the group consisting of user

profile information and user feedback concerning information retrieval results, said explicit data

being added iteratively to said central database to form said augmented central database so as to

progressively tailor information retrieval results for said at least one user based on said implicit

data and said explicit data.

16.   (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

said remote program code is adapted for monitoring user activity at a plurality of remote

terminals, for collecting said monitored data related to said user activity and to one of said

information sources accessed by each of said plurality of remote terminals, and for transmitting

said monitored data to said central program code;

said central program code supplements said data records based on user activity at said

plurality of remote terminals to provide said augmented central database; and

said central computer progressively tailors said information retrieval results for said at

least one user based on said network activity at said plurality of remote terminals.

17.   (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said monitored

data includes a plurality of user profiles, and wherein said central computer groups contents of

said augmented central database based on said plurality of user profiles so as to tailor said

information retrieval results for said at least one user based on ones of said plurality of user

profiles most closely matching a user profile of said at least one user.

18.   (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said

information retrieval results include an identity of at least one other user with whom said at least

one user then can communicate to obtain further information.

19.   (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said search

space comprises the Internet, and media programming comprising at least one of television

programming and radio programming, so that said at least one user can access said media

programming as a result of said information retrieval results.

20.   (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said search space

comprises the Internet, and media programming comprising at least one of television

programming and radio programming, so that said at least one user can access said media

programming as a result of said information retrieval results.

21.   (currently amended): A method of accumulating and retrieving information

related to one or more information sources in a search space, said method comprising:

providing central program code at a central computer; said central program code being

adapted for maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing the information related

to said information sources, and for comparing said data records with said information related to

said information sources;

recognizing communication between said central program code and remote program code

at each of a plurality of remote terminals; said remote program code being adapted for

monitoring user activity of each of a plurality of users accessing any information source in the

search space irrespective of whether a uniform resource locator (URL) accessed in the search

space is the same as the URL of said central program code, for collecting monitored data related

to said information retrieval activity, and for transmitting said monitored data to said central

program code, wherein said remote program code monitors said user activity without requiring

said plurality of users to access a search engine or any particular web site, and the monitoring is independent of the plurality of users' access to any search engine;

supplementing, at said central computer, said data records in accordance with said monitored data to provide an augmented central database;

responsive to a request for information from at least one user, identifying candidate response information related to said information sources at said central computer;

comparing contents of said augmented central database with said request and with said candidate response information at said central computer; and

as a result of said identifying and said comparing, transmitting, to said remote program code at at least one of said plurality of remote terminals, data concerning one or more of said information sources which contain information relevant to said request so as to progressively tailor information retrieval results for at least one user and provide said information retrieval results to said at least one user.

22.   (currently amended): An information retrieval system for accumulation and retrieval of data related to one or more information sources in a search space, said system comprising:

remote program code at each of a plurality of remote terminals; said remote program code being adapted for monitoring user activity of a plurality of users accessing any information source in the search space irrespective of whether a uniform resource locator (URL) accessed in the search space is the same as the URL of said central program code, for collecting monitored data related to said user activity and to each of said information sources accessed by said at least one user, and for transmitting said monitored data, wherein said remote program code monitors said user activity without requiring said plurality of users to access a search engine or any

particular web site, and the monitoring is independent of the plurality of users' access to any

search engine; and

      a central computer having central program code receiving said monitored data

transmitted from said remote program code; said central program code being adapted for

maintaining a central database of data records, for accessing information related to said

information sources, and for comparing said data records with said information related to said

information sources;

      wherein said central program code supplements said data records in accordance with said

monitored data to provide an augmented central database,

      said central computer identifying candidate response information related to said

information sources in response to a request for information from said at least one user,

comparing contents of said augmented central database with said request and with said candidate

response information, and transmitting, to said remote program code at at least one of said

plurality of remote terminals, data concerning one or more of said information sources which

contain information relevant to said request so as to progressively tailor information retrieval

results for at least one user and provide said information retrieval results to said at least one user.